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Applicant: Rodgers, et al.
Appl. No.: 10/595,596
International Filing Date: October 20, 2004
Title: MOUSETRAP
Attorney Docket No.: 102792-47
Pub. No.: US 2007/0017149-A1
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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

This is a decision on the request for a corrected patent application publication under 37 CFR 1.221(b), received on March 9, 2007, for the above-identified application

The request is dismissed.

Applicant requests that the application be republished because the patent application publication contains material errors, wherein the preliminary amendment to the claims was not included in the publication.

37 CFR 1.221 (b) is applicable "only when the Office makes a **material mistake** which is apparent from Office records.... Any request for a corrected publication or revised patent application publication other than provided as provided in paragraph (a) of this section must be filed within two months from the date of the patent application publication. This period is not extendable." A material mistake must affect the public's ability to appreciate the technical disclosure of the patent application publication, to determine the scope of the patent application publication, or to determine the scope of the provisional rights that an applicant may seek to enforce upon issuance of a patent.

The error noted by requestor with respect to the preliminary amendment is not an Office error. The patent application publication does not include a mistake regarding the failure to include the preliminary amendment to the claims in the publication by the Office because patent application publications are not required to include preliminary amendments, according to 37 CFR 1.215(a),² which says the following, in part:

¹Changes to Implement Eighteen-Month Publication of Patent Applications, 65 FR 57023, 57038 (Sept. 20, 2000), 1239, Off. Gaz. Pat. Office Notices 63, 75 (Oct. 10, 2000) (final rule).

²Changes to Support Implementation of the United States Patent and Trademark Office 21st Century Strategic Plan; Final Rule, 69 FR 56482 (Sept. 21, 2004).

(a) . . . The patent application publication will be based upon the specification and drawings deposited on the filing date of the application, as well as the executed oath or declaration submitted to complete the application. **The patent application publication may also be based upon amendments** to the specification (other than the abstract or the claims) that are reflected in a substitute specification under Sec. 1.125(b), amendments to the abstract under Sec. 1.121(b), amendments to the claims that are reflected in a complete claim listing under Sec. 1.121(c), and amendments to the drawings under Sec. 1.121(d), provided that such substitute specification or amendment is submitted in sufficient time to be entered into the Office file wrapper of the application before technical preparations for publication of the application have begun. (emphasis added)

§ 1.215(c) says the following:

(c) At applicant's option, the patent application publication will be based upon the copy of the application (specification, drawings, and oath or declaration) as amended, provided that applicant supplies such a copy in compliance with the Office electronic filing system requirements within one month of the mailing date of the first Office communication that includes a confirmation number for the application, or fourteen months of the earliest filing date for which a benefit is sought under title 35, United States Code, whichever is later.

While the patent application publication may now include a preliminary amendment, the Office is not required to use the preliminary amendment. The Office changed the procedures for publication of patent applications so as to publish applications as amended, when possible. Until 2004, patent application publications were published as originally filed. See Patent Application Publications May Now Include Amendments, 1281 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office Notices 53 (April 13, 2004) and MPEP 1121. Applicant did not file a specification, which incorporated the preliminary amendment. See Pre-Grant Publication Helpful Hint: File Continuation or Divisional Application with a New Specification and Copy of Oath or Declaration from Prior Application, 1251 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office Notices 54 (Oct. 9, 2001).

It would greatly benefit the Office if **applicant did not provide copies of papers**, which were previously submitted or **a complete copy of the pre-grant publication**, as it unnecessarily increases the cost to the Office. See 37 CFR 1.4(b). A request for corrected publication need only point out what was printed incorrectly in the application, where the error occurs in the publication and where the correct text or drawing is found in the application papers. Marked up relevant copies of the applications papers and the pre-grant publication may facilitate processing of the request, where it is not readily apparent where the error occurs. If it is not clear why the error is a material error, further explanation may be warranted.

The applicant is advised that a “request for republication of an application previously published” may be filed under 37 CFR 1.221(a). Such a request for republication “must include a copy of the application compliance with the Office’s electronic filing system requirements and be accompanied by the publication fee set forth in § 1.18 (d) and the processing fee set forth in § 1.17(i).” If the request for republication does not comply with the electronic filing system requirements, the republication will not take place and the publication fee set forth in § 1.18(d) will be refunded. The processing fee will be retained.

Any request for republication under 37 CFR 1.221(a), must be submitted via the EFS system as a "Pre-Grant Publication" and questions or request for reconsideration of the decision, should be addressed as follows:

By mail to: Mail Stop PGPUB
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Va. 22313-1450

By facsimile: 571-273-8300

Inquiries relating to this matter may be directed to Mark Polutta at (571) 272-7709.



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